

Civic campaigns

Police has become a target of civic monitors again

From October 10 to 31 the latest stage of the campaign "Police Under Control" was held aiming to monitor the activity of police officers according to the areas "Police at the Stations" and "Police in Focus". At corresponding workshops regional coordinators and the majority of the campaign participants – totaling over 300 people from different regions of Ukraine – obtained necessary information on the procedure of monitoring of law enforcement bodies' activity, got some practical experience and developed skills to conduct such monitoring. Objectiveness and competency – these are important criteria the public inspectors adhere to in their work.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\)](#)

During
the monitoring of police.
Sign on the door: Police room



Police and public jointly negotiated the rules of filming law enforcement officers' actions.

On the initiative of the Association UMDPL human rights defenders, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and officers of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights discussed problems associated with photo and video recording of police officers' actions. The discussion took place on September 6 during the round table meeting in the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. As a result, a decision was made to initiate the creation of a working group to clearly define conditions under which recording of police officers' actions

starts to interfere with the performance of their job duties. Accordingly, in all the other cases police officers will not have a right to prevent citizens from photo or video capturing of their work.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\)](#)

September 1 – a Knowledge Day?

One of the thematic monitorings conducted in the framework of the campaign «Police Under Control» was a monitoring of the beginning of the school year in MIA higher educational institutions. It was conducted in Kharkiv and Kyiv. Results of the monitoring can be found on the Association UMDPL's website (in Ukrainian): ([here](#) and [here](#)).

Reference:

The national monitoring campaign «Police Under Control» is a civic campaign during which activists and volunteers conduct monitoring of human rights observance by police officers. The monitoring started in 2011 aims at developing various forms of civic control over the police by ensuring transparency of its activities.

The campaign is held as a series of thematic monitorings on the most systemic problems in the police activities resulting in human rights violations. After summarizing and analyzing data obtained in the course of each monitoring, the experts develop recommendations for the MIA of Ukraine aimed at improving the situation.

The campaign is coordinated by the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement.

International activity

Association UMDPL took part in the discussion of problems related to human rights in the OSCE region

Representatives of the Association UMDPL participated in the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting which took place in Warsaw from September 24 to October 5, 2012. At the meeting representatives of non-governmental organizations had an opportunity to discuss relevant problems related to human rights in the region with delegates from OSCE participating countries.

At the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting the Association became a cofounder of the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations devoted to



Briefing during
Human Dimension
Implementation Meeting,
Warsaw, Poland

Ukraine's presidency in the OSCE in 2013. Besides, the Association organized a briefing which took place on September 27. At the briefing the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations presented its vision of the issues related to human rights observance which the Ukrainian government should solve during the presidency to the delegates of OSCE participating countries and claimed its willingness to assist in and conduct monitoring of Ukraine's activity on this post. Suggestions concern the activity of the Ukrainian government aimed at solving problems in the OSCE region in general and problematic issues within the country.

[Read more \(in English\)](#)

Awareness-raising activity



Association UMDPL conducted a series of educational activities for activists of non-governmental organizations on the topic of civic investigations.

From September 10 to 31, 2012, three national workshops focusing on civic investigations of the police unlawful activity were held in Kyiv, Lviv and Kharkiv for 60 activists of non-governmental organizations and journalists from different parts of Ukraine. Participants of the workshop learnt about the procedure of investigations carried out by different bodies and institutions: the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Verkhovna Rada provisional investigatory commissions, the Commissioner for Human Rights, journalists; the proper and effective ways of collecting necessary information for civic investigation, behavior in conflict situations involving the police in the course of investigation and steps to plan and implement civic investigation on a relevant issue.

Based on the results of workshops, the participants will conduct their own civic investigation of violations by law enforcement officers in a corresponding region.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\).](#)

Association UMDPL's Chairman of the Board Oleh Martynenko held a workshop at School of Professional Journalism "New Ukraine"

On September 4-8, 2012, the second session of the School of Professional Journalism "NEW UKRAINE" took place in the village of Mriia (Kyiv region). The event was held by the Laboratory for Legislative Initiatives with the support of the Mass Media Program of the International Renaissance Foundation and the Network Media Program of the Open Society Foundation. The School brought together journalists from different regions of Ukraine. One of the thematic blocks at the School was dedicated to human rights observance by law enforcement officers. Oleh Martynenko - the Association UMDPL's Chairman of the Board - made a speech before the participants. Besides the main principles of interaction with the police, he introduced the participants to the Optional Protocol to the UN's Convention against Torture. The participants learnt that places of confinement are not limited to prisons - they also include custodial settings. According to human rights defenders, there are over 5 thousand places of this type in Ukraine. Also the expert draw attention to the major problems related to human rights protection in places of confinement.

Association UMDPL conducted a series of specialized workshops for activists of non-governmental organizations as to protection of vulnerable groups.

All-in-all from September 10 to October 7 four specialized workshops were held in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv and Alushta focusing on protection of drug addicts and sex workers from abuse by the police using the mechanisms of civic monitoring and expert examination. Participants of workshops included representatives of non-governmental organizations working with the mentioned vulnerable groups and counsels defending their interests in court. Based on the knowledge about proper behavior in case of violations by the police, the activists will conduct a specialized monitoring campaign in November 2012 aimed at revealing systemic violations of drug addicts' and sex workers' rights by law enforcement officers.

[Read more \(in English\).](#)



Cooperation with authorities

Experts of the Association UMDPL participated in strategic planning related to introduction and implementation of the national preventative mechanism against torture

On October 2-3, 2012, strategic planning of activities on implementation of the national preventative mechanism against torture and cruel treatment in Ukraine took place in Kyiv. Apart from the Association UMDPL, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the planning: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, Information Center for Human Rights, Understanding Human Rights, Kharkiv Institute for Social Research, Association of Independent Monitors of Places

of Confinement, Representative of The Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights responsible for implementation of the NPM Yu. Bielousov. The event was organized and supported by the Rule of Law Program of the International Renaissance Foundation.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\).](#)

The Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights concluded a memorandum of cooperation with the Association UMDPL

The memorandum was signed on September 19. Its aim is to consolidate efforts of Parties focused on improving the overall observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and legal education.

The Ombudsman and the Association UMDPL agreed about cooperation in the area of monitoring of observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. According to the Memorandum, the Association is ready to assist the Commissioner and the Commissioner's Secretariat in implementation of functions granted to the Commissioner by the Constitution of Ukraine, laws and international agreements of Ukraine, and thus support the strengthening of relations between the Commission and civil society institutions on the national and regional levels. One of the important functions of cooperation between the Parties will be assistance in creation of an effective mechanism to collect information on violations of human rights and freedoms and respond to such violations.

[Read more \(in English\)](#)

Analytics, useful materials

Over September-October 2012 the Association UMDPL has prepared and distributed a series of reference materials for activists of the monitoring campaign "Police Under Control" and different target groups.

Thus, updated manuals on the monitoring of different police services have been published:

- [Manual on the monitoring of human rights observance by district police officers \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Manual on the monitoring of human rights observance by the Road Patrol Service of the State Automobile Inspectorate \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Manual on the monitoring of human rights observance by the Police Dispatch](#)

[Center \(in Ukrainian\)](#).

Besides, two thematic manuals on the monitoring of rights of vulnerable groups by the police officers have been published:

- [Manual on the monitoring of sex worker rights observance by the police \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Manual on the monitoring of drug addict rights observance by the police \(in Ukrainian\)](#).

Besides, reminder cards for wide public on how to behave in different situations involving communication with the police have been printed out and their electronic versions have been published on the Association UMDPL's website:

- [You are accused of committing a](#)

[crime \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [You are in a detention cell \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [You are called to the district police station \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Communicating with a police officer \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Battering in the police \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Search in your house \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [Open the door! It's the police! \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [How police officers should behave while communicating with citizens \(in Ukrainian\)](#);

- [You are detained for having committed an administrative offence \(Ukrainian\)](#).

News from the regions

Representative of the Association UMDPL participated in the visit to Cherkasy Pre-Trial Detention Center together with representatives of the Ombudsman of Ukraine

On October 17 representatives of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights and a member of the Association UMDPL's Board Volodymyr Bachaiev, who is also a regional coordinator responsible for public relations of the Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights in Cherkasy region, visited Cherkasy pre-trial detention center to check the observance of human rights of the detainees. Based on the results of the check, comments as to the weak points found and recommendations as their removal were submitted to the head of the establishment.



Volodymyr Bachaiev during visit to Cherkasy Pre-Trial Detention Center. Cherkasy, Ukraine

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\)](#).

Other news

Experts of the Association UMDPL participated in the briefing on the problems of interaction between the youth and the police

On October 22, 2012, a briefing on the problems of interaction between the youth and the police took place in the office of the Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights. Human rights defenders and civic activists discussed the pattern of interaction between the youth and the

police, the experts focused on numerous problems related to violation of human rights by the Ukrainian police and shared their vision of the strategy of actions of civic organizations and the state to improve the situation and overcome the police arbitrariness. As a participant of the event, Executive Director of the Association UMDPL Vadym Pyvovarov told the journalists about its two-year experience in conducting campaigns of civic monitoring of human rights

violations by law enforcement officers and also informed about the results of the latest campaign related to the monitoring of legitimacy of the police actions in transport and photo- and video recording of law enforcement officers' activities. The briefing was organized by a human rights center «Postup» jointly with the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Government Commissioner for Human Rights.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\)](#).

Event announcements

Association UMDPL will conduct a round table meeting «Casual inspection or unwarranted search – does the police comply with laws?»

On November 20, 2012, the Association UMDPL jointly with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights will conduct a round table meeting based on the results of the latest stage of the monitoring campaign «Police Under Control». The October stage of the campaign was dedicated to monitoring of the activity of law enforcement officers at the stations. During the monitoring railway and bus stations in more than 15 regions of Ukraine have been checked. Monitors focused on the behavior of patrollers in areas heavily crowded by travelers and on the organization of work of local police stations.

The monitoring identified a few systemic problems related to work of the specialized police in transport means and that of patrollers at bus stations. One of them is a so called casual inspection which is not regulated by law and in fact violates the rights of citizens. These and other issues identified by monitors during the campaign "Police Under Control" will be discussed at the round table meeting. Experts, volunteers of the monitoring campaign, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and journalists are invited to participate.

Association UMDPL jointly with the Ukrainian office of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine will hold a workshop for law enforcement officers

Initiated by the Ukrainian office of the Council of Europe in the framework of the Joint Program of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Intensifying Fight Against Cruel Treatment and Impunity", a workshop «Main Provisions of the New Code of Criminal Procedure of Ukraine as to the Stage of Pretrial Investigation as a Guarantee of Protection of Suspects Against Cruel Treatment: Compliance with European Standards» will be held on November 7-8, 2012. The workshop will bring together investigators from all regions of Ukraine. Senior officials of the Main Investigation Department of the MIA, professors of Dnipropetrovsk State University of Internal Affairs, a judge from the Supreme Court of Ukraine and the Council of Europe experts will take on the role of experts at the workshop.



During the monitoring of police. Simferopol, Ukraine

Association UMDPL conducts a contest of creative works on the police activity until the end of November 2012

From the beginning of August to the end of November 2012 the second stage of the national contest for the best photo, video or journalist material related to the topic of human rights observance by police officers is being held. The contest has been held by the

Association UMDPL since 2011. The aim of the contest is to draw attention to the problem of human rights observance by the police, as well as show law enforcement officers which weak points in their work concern the society and urge the MIA of Ukraine to improve the situation.

The results of the second stage of the contest will be announced in De-

ember 2012. The contest is open to all individuals aged 14 or older who send photos, an amateur video or an article, a feature story, an essay or other journalist materials for consideration by the contest jury. The contest jury which will determine the winners will include prominent Ukrainian human rights defenders and civic activists.

[Read more \(in Ukrainian\)](#)

Activity of the Association UMDPL is supported by:

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